

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid, comprising the steps of:
providing an intraductal fluid sampling device having an adjustable support, at least one inflatable bladder carried by the support and a patient interface surface carried by the bladder;
adjusting the support to correspond with the approximate size of a breast to be tested;
placing the interface in contact with the breast; and
inflating the bladder to provide compression to the breast.
2. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 1, wherein the adjusting the support to correspond with the approximate size of a breast to be tested step is carried out before the placing the interface in contact with the breast step.
3. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 1, wherein the placing the interface in contact with the breast step is carried out prior to the adjusting the support to correspond with the approximate size of a breast to be tested step.
4. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 1, wherein the adjusting step comprises adjusting the support to approximately fit the breast without imparting compression.
5. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 3, wherein the adjusting step comprises rotating an adjustment ring.
6. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 1, wherein the placing step comprises placing the interface surface in contact with the breast such that at least a portion of the bladder is positioned to impart compression to the lactiferous sinus.
7. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 1, wherein the inflating the bladder to provide compression to the breast step comprises providing compression to the lactiferous sinus.
8. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 1, wherein the inflating the bladder to provide compression to the breast step comprises providing compression to the breast at least partially on the anatomically proximal aspect to the lactiferous sinus.

9. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 1, wherein the inflating the bladder step comprises inflating the bladder with a heated fluid.

10. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 8, wherein the heated fluid is heated to a temperature within the range of from about 102° F to about 120° F.

11. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 1, wherein the inflating the bladder step comprises inflating the bladder for an inflation cycle having a duration within the range of from about 1 second to about 30 seconds.

12. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 10, wherein the inflating the bladder step comprises inflating the bladder for an inflation cycle having a duration within the range of from about 5 seconds to about 20 seconds.

13. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 10, wherein the inflating the bladder step comprises inflating the bladder through a series of cycles at a repetition rate within the range of from about 3 cycles per minute to about 60 cycles per minute.

14. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 12, wherein the inflating the bladder step comprises inflating the bladder through a series of cycles at a repetition rate within the range of from about 4 cycles per minute to about 20 cycles per minute.

15. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 10, wherein the inflation cycles are controlled by a control circuit.

16. A method of obtaining a sample of intraductal fluid as in Claim 1, wherein the support comprises at least 3 petals, and the adjusting step comprises pivotably adjusting the petals to approximately fit the breast without imparting compression.